(b) if so, what quantity of kerosene oil is likely to be supplied to Madhya Pradesh for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) No such request in the recent past seems to have been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh. The State Government had, however, requested, in April, 1985, an additional quantity of 20 lakh litres of kerosene per month for its industrial consumers.

No allocation of kerosene oil for industrial use is made as such to States/Union Territories; such requirements can be met by them, keeping in view the Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Price) Order, 1966, out of the total allocation made by Government from time to time.

Control over the prices of pesticides

@3179-B. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have adpoted any policy of controlling the prices of pesticides in the country;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are aware that this is likely to lead to speculate business and it may ultimately affect the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) At present there is no Government control on prices of pesticides. Some proposals for imposing selective control are, however, under consideration.

@Previously Unstarred Question 2912 transferred from the 4th December, 1987.

Import of industrial oil for toilet washing soap Industry

@@3179-C. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign exchange was released in 1987-88 to the S.T.C. for the import of 80,000 tonnes of industrial oil/unedible oil for the manufacture of toilet/washing soap;

(b) whether it is also a fact that soap manufacturers have requested for the import of 15 lakh tonnes of industrial oil for the industry;

(c) what is the quantity of industrial oil imported during the last three years and the cost price, insurance charges and freight paid thereon;

(d) what is the quantity of industrial oil allotted to the big industrial houses covered under M.R.T.P.C. and the percentage of allotment to the small scale units,

(e) what are the reasons for price rise when industiral oil is being allotted by Government to the soap industry;

(f) what was the price variation of toilet soap from March, 1986 to July, 1987, month-wise; and

(g) what action has been taken against the big industrial houses for charging a high price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) The import requirement of industrial oils for the manufacture of bathing and washing soaps has been assessed at about 1 lakh MT for 1987-88. Out of this, about 40,000 MT of CPS is estimated to be used by the organised sector, including some MRTP cos., and 60,000 MT of PFAD by the small scale industry. The allocation of foreign exchange for

@@Previously unstarred question 318 transferred from the 8th December, 1987.